

1/17/2001

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Office of the Commissioner, HFA-305
US Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear US Food and Drug Administration Commissioner,

Current levels of persistent foodchain pollutants, including: dioxins, furans, PCBs and hexachlorobenzene, present in the fat tissue of cattle, pose a health threat to that group of the American public which consumes dairy products containing milk fat and or beef. The presence of these contaminants in cattle's bodies is largely attributable to bioaccumulation from consumption of forage crops upon which particulates laden with persistent organic pollutants (POPs) have deposited from the air. However, the feeding of concentrated rations with animal fat constituents is another route by which such toxicants enter bovines.

Clearly, health protective measures must be focused upon lowering the concentrations of POPs in cattle. Will the US Food and Drug Administration promulgate regulations which ban the feeding of bovine, porcine and poultry fat to cattle, as well as banning the use of fish fat in cattle rations? Furthermore, will the US FDA determine safe levels of POPs for cattle feed and take regulatory actions to insure that these levels are not exceeded?

Thank you for giving careful consideration to this request. With the imminent release of the final draft of the US Environmental Protection Agency's dioxin reassessment promising to raise public awareness of the damages to health caused by dioxin exposures, I am sure that your office realizes that the time for these changes has come.

Sincerely,

Don Hassig

Don Hassig
St. Lawrence Environmental Action
531 CR 28
Ogdensburg, NY 13669
(315) 393-1975

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8
arg, Ny 13669



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US Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

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